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## NEWS AND NOTES

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### THE CONFERENCE AT OAKLAND

According to custom, a special meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English will be held at Oakland, California, in connection with the annual convention and international congress of the National Education Association. The California State Association of English Teachers will participate as a body.

The dates chosen are August 18 and 20. This is during the first week of the National Education Association convention, or, as it is called, International Congress. Headquarters will be maintained in the Oakland Hotel from August 16 to 22, and it is hoped that all friends of the Council will make use of the facilities provided. The meetings will be held in the new Oakland Auditorium. Anyone wishing to arrange for hotel accommodations or rooms in a private residence should correspond with Joseph E. Caine, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in Oakland.

The program of the conference, though still incomplete, is certain to be excellent. The following topics and speakers are definitely arranged for: "On American Speech and Speech Training," Professor Fred N. Scott, University of Michigan, Professor Calvin L. Lewis, Hamilton College, and Miss Katherine Jewell Everts, Pomfret, Connecticut; "Dialect Boundaries in America," Professor George Hempl; "The Case of John Smith," Professor Edmund K. Broadus, University of Alberta; "Dramatic Production in the High School," O. B. Sperlin, Stadium High School, Tacoma, Washington; "The Reorganization of High-School English," William B. Owen, principal of the Chicago Normal College, Miss Emma J. Breck, University High School, Oakland, California, C. C. Certain, Central High School, Birmingham, Alabama, James F. Hosic, secretary of the Council, and others; "The English Course in the First Six Years of School," J. W. Searson, Kansas Agricultural College; "A New Textbook for Teachers of English," William R. Davis, Whitman College. Those who attend the meeting will have the opportunity of hearing the papers and addresses which are presented before the National Education Association. Among these may be singled out those relating to the school library. Both the Department of Secondary Education and the Library Department will give

marked attention to this topic. Copies of the National Education Association program may be obtained of D. W. Springer, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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#### THE NATIONAL SPEECH ARTS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The twenty-fourth annual convention of the National Speech Arts Association will be held in San Francisco during the week beginning June 28. On Monday evening, the Board of Directors will meet at headquarters, the Ramona Hotel. All the meetings for the presentation of papers and discussions will be held in the Civic Auditorium. The tentative program follows:

Opening Prayer, RIGHT REV. BISHOP MANNA.

Addresses of Welcome, MAYOR JAMES ROLPH, of San Francisco, and JOHN D. BARRY, editorial writer on the *San Francisco Bulletin*.

Papers:

1. "Expression as an Instinct," JOSEPH GAYLORD, of Winona, Minnesota.
2. "Voice as an Expressive Agent," GRACE C. MAKEPEACE, of Cleveland, Ohio.
3. "The Transition from Instinctive to Artistic Expression," CHARLES M. HOLT, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.
4. "The Relation of a Speaker to His Audience," THOMAS C. TRUEBLOOD, of the University of Michigan.
5. "Public Speaking and Debate," H. C. GISLASON, of the University of Minnesota.
6. "Bodily Expression," FREDERICK ABBOTT, of San Antonio, Texas.
7. "Dramatic Reading of Plays," C. EDMUND NEIL, of the University of West Virginia.
8. "Dramatics for Children," MRS. LUCILE R. SMITH, of the San Francisco Normal School.

Readings:

1. "Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*," C. EDMUND NEIL.
  2. "Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*," LILLIAN QUINN STARK, of San Francisco.
  3. "Gerhardt Hauptman's *Elga*," MIRIAM NELKE, of San Francisco.
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#### THE ASSOCIATIONS

##### CALIFORNIA

The California Association of Teachers of English has just completed its first year and has more than fulfilled the expectations of its organization committee. Although the association has been in existence so short a time, it has a paid membership of almost two hundred from all parts

of California. Last summer, at a meeting of the California High School Teachers' Association, held at the University of California, the English section decided to be absorbed by the new English association. Also, at the joint meeting of the English association with the English section of the California Teachers' Association, held April 9, the latter organization voted to merge itself with the English association. These two steps were taken because the English teachers of California felt that more effective work could be done by one powerful organization in the state than by several small sections of teachers. These facts alone show that the English association has already become a recognized force in English teaching in California.

The work of the past year has consisted, for the most part, of reports of committees appointed to investigate important phases of English work, such as high-school courses in literature, co-operation of all departments of a school with the English department, and composition work. At the request of Mr. Will C. Wood, commissioner of secondary education in California, a committee on oral English in high schools has submitted a report, which will be published and distributed by the state. All other reports are published in the association leaflets, issued from time to time. In addition to Mr. Wood's request, other requests for the investigation and discussion of certain problems in English work have been received by the association. Committees have been appointed for this work. There is every evidence that the second year of the association will be one of interest and benefit to its members.

The association is anticipating an interesting meeting with the National Council, in Oakland, California, when the National Education Association convenes in that city. Plans for the entertainment of the visiting English teachers are now under way.

At the last regular meeting of the association, held April 10, in San Francisco, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Miss Emma J. Breck, Oakland; Vice-President, Mrs. F. Y. Humphries, Palo Alto; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Emma V. Schneider, Oakland; Editor, Mr. Clarence N. Smith, Alameda; Fifth Director, Miss Elizabeth Graham, San Francisco.

#### INLAND EMPIRE

A branch of the National Council was organized in connection with the Inland Empire Educational Association at Spokane, Washington, April 16. The officers are: President, William R. Davis, Whitman College; Vice-President, George F. Reynolds, State University of

Montana; Secretary-Treasurer, Herbert Fowler, State Normal School, Lewiston, Idaho. The new society will be represented at the Oakland meeting in August and it plans to co-operate actively with the various committees of the national organization.

#### THE UPPER OHIO VALLEY

The spring meeting of the English section of the Association of Secondary Schools in the Upper Ohio Valley, held on Saturday, May 8, at the Fort Pitt Hotel, Pittsburgh, though rather slimly attended, was unusually interesting. The program was as follows:

"Shakespeare and the Masque. From Recent Studies of Professor C. W. Wallace," MISS MARY SULLIVAN, Fifth Avenue High School, Pittsburgh.

"The Drama and the High School," PROFESSOR THOMAS WOOD STEVENS, Carnegie Institute of Technology.

"The Separation of English Composition and Literature," MR. ERNEST C. NOYES, Peabody High School, Pittsburgh; MR. EDWARD SOUVAIN, Principal of Highland High School, Pittsburgh.

Miss Sullivan, the first speaker, has spent a year, besides several summers, in working with Professor and Mrs. Wallace in London, and was therefore able to give, in spirited detail, an account of some of the discoveries that have aroused so much attention among both British and American scholars. Shakespeare's connection with the masques of the time of James I was the particular phase of the subject presented, and this was done with such a wealth of lively and personal detail as to make the royal court almost live again.

The other two subjects on the program aroused much earnest discussion, particularly the second. A luncheon, however, brought to an apparently amicable end all difference of opinion.

C. B. STORY, *Secretary*

#### PHILADELPHIA

At the spring meeting of the English Teachers' Club of Philadelphia, a discussion of "What Is English?" was presented in the form of five brief papers in answer to the questions: "Grammar and Rhetoric?" "Oral Expression?" "Spelling and Etymology?" "Composition?" "Literature?"

In the first paper Miss Myra Godfrey showed the necessity for the development of a grammatical and rhetorical sense in high-school pupils.

Mr. Frank Melvin discussed the relation of oral expression to the English course. He pointed out both the necessity and the difficulty

of developing adequate speech power with a crowded course and with pupils of varying linguistic attainments.

Miss Helen Lynch under the question "Spelling and Etymology?" classified according to the possibilities which their home environment offered for vocabulary equipment. In view of the fact that most pupils come from poor homes; from homes where cheap magazines and cheap talk prevail; or from homes where English is a foreign tongue, Miss Lynch made a strong plea for vocabulary-building in school through the development of a sense of the relationship of words.

Mr. Irvin Anthony discussed composition work in its relationship to the English course. Miss Margaret Dungan analyzed, keenly and sympathetically, the value of the work in literature.

As a whole the five brief talks offered an illuminating view of the demands and possibilities of the English course in the secondary schools.

OLIVE E. HART, *Secretary*

#### NEW YORK CITY

The New York City Association of Teachers of English has just issued an elaborate bulletin setting forth the work of its committees for the past year. This valuable document may be had by sending 16 cents in stamps to Mr. Charles C. Hartwell, 234 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

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The Drama League of America, under the leadership of its new president, Mr. Percival Chubb, is undertaking to promote celebrations of the Shakespeare tercentenary in 1916. The Bureau of Education at Washington is assisting in the movement and will soon publish a bulletin on the subject prepared in the Library of Congress. Mr. Chubb will gladly supply information on request. He may be addressed at 4533 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Missouri.

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An interesting experiment is in progress in one of the high schools in New England, for the furtherance of oral training in connection with the study of English. In the city of Manchester, New Hampshire, all the public-school teachers, about two hundred and twenty, under the direction of Superintendent C. W. Bickford, attend a course of lectures given by Professor I. L. Winter, of Harvard University. Assisting instructors meet these teachers at other times, in small groups, for personal training in speaking and reading. This work is to be carried on for two or three years, and it is expected that all teachers will do something, by example and by precept, for better English and better speech.

A conference of teachers of history, similar to the conference of English teachers held last year, is being arranged in connection with the Summer Shakespeare Festival at Stratford-upon-Avon. The dates are August 2-14. It is expected that another English conference will take place next year.

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A further list of members of the National Council who will give courses in the teaching of English during the summer are: Allan Abbott at Columbia University; Walter Barnes and Miss Mary B. Fontane at the University of West Virginia; B. A. Heydrick at Hamilton College; R. L. Lyman, J. F. Hosic, and Miss Eleanor Lally at the University of Chicago; Edwin M. Hopkins at the University of Kansas; Miss Emma J. Breck at the University of California; and Miss Lula O. Andrews at Peabody College for Teachers.

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On March 26 the members of the Zelosophic Literary Society of the University of Pennsylvania presented *The Prince of Parthia*, the earliest American play. It was originally produced by the American Company under the direction of David Douglass, on April 24, 1767, at the old Southwork Theatre in Philadelphia. For the recent revival special oriental costumes were designed by Mr. Guernsey Moore, and the stage was set simply with a black curtain, against which the brilliant costumes stood out in striking contrast.

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"*The English Journal* (Chicago) is as interesting and valuable as usual. Its March number has an excellent article on The Laboratory Equipment of the Teacher of English. We are familiar with most of the material suggested, but there is a touch of freshness in what is said of the stereograph and the phonograph. British teachers of English will do well to keep an eye on the organ of their American colleagues."—*The Educational Times* (London).

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Beginning in 1916, answer papers in the New York state high-school examinations may receive an additional five points of credit, providing they are otherwise above the passing mark, for notably good English. The English inspectors believe that within two or three years it will be possible to secure a regulation that will enable examiners to reject papers in any subject which are written in notably poor English. There would seem to be no better method possible for raising the general standard of English composition in the schools of a state than to require good English in all studies.